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AFGHANISTAN

MONTHLY REPORT

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Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization Program- Formal Component

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ACRONYMS

ACAS	Afghanistan Court Administration System
ACT	Anti-Corruption Tribunal
AWJA	Afghan Women Judges Association
CLE	Continuing Legal Education
CMS	Case Management System
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
HR	Human Resources
IT	Information Technology
INL	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
JSSP	Justice Sector Support Program
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
RLS-Formal	Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization Project - Formal Component
SC	Supreme Court
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USG	United States Government

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RLS-Formal accomplished the following results and activities in December:

Judicial Education In December, the project implemented several continuing legal education programs for sitting judges, including a program for 16 judges from Helmand, Kandahar, and Zabul provinces. The participants studied family and inheritance law, civil and criminal procedure, judicial ethics, and women's rights. RLS-Formal also made advances in improving the institutional capacity of anti-corruption courts in December. Advisors led a training program on legal norms and courtroom procedure for 34 sitting judges from Anti-Corruption Tribunals across Afghanistan. Additionally, RLS-Formal continued to build momentum in its work with the Afghan Women Judges Association (AWJA). Advisors met with the Director of the AWJA to develop a one-year work plan of activities and discussed training initiatives to build the capacity of the association as a whole.

Court Management RLS-Formal achieved notable milestones in developing the Supreme Court's (SC) capacity for budget management, personnel and asset management. In collaboration with SC personnel, the project designed and installed several databases including a human resources database, an asset management database, and a library database, all of which will help streamline administrative reforms within the judiciary. In anticipation of implementing an improved case statistics reporting system, staff met with judges and court administrators in Balkh and Herat province to discuss simplifying reporting forms and automating existing databases. RLS-Formal also continued to work with the SC on developing the administrative *Stage*, an induction training program for court clerks and administrators on effective administrative procedures and processes.

Legal Education The project continued its extensive support for practical legal education in Afghanistan. Al Biruni and Kabul Universities inaugurated language labs in December, featuring computers with English and Arabic language-learning software. The universities immediately began advanced training on legal English using the labs. RLS-Formal continued its support for legal clinics, assisting with a three month legal clinic on family law for students from Kabul University. At Nangarhar University, the project graduated 25 professors from a training on modern teaching methodologies and commenced a training program on legal research methodologies for 50 female students.

Public Legal Outreach RLS-Formal made gainful strides in December in strengthening the public legal outreach efforts of the SC and Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The MOJ, in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), launched a public awareness campaign commemorating International Human Rights Day featuring four public service announcements on gender equality and women's rights broadcast on television in primetime. RLS-Formal advisors also concluded training programs on the use of studio equipment and on how to conduct professional photography for media and outreach staff from the SC.

1.1 CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE JUDICIARY

Task 1: Continuing Support to the Judicial Stage Program

- RLS-Formal continued its technical and financial assistance to the judicial *Stage*. In late December, the project began to work with the program to assist it with conducting entrance examinations for the next entering class of judicial stage candidates. The exam is tentatively scheduled in late January 2013.
- In December, RLS-Formal continued to work with the SC on developing a training program for a tranche of approximately 80 new judges expected to fill vacancies in insecure district courts across Afghanistan. RLS-Formal advisor met with Mr. Osman Zhobal, the Head of the SC Research and Studies Department, to initiate the planning and development phase of the curriculum and agenda for this training.

Task 2: Improve Institutional Capacity of State Justice Institutions including Anti-Corruption Courts

- On December 12th, RLS-Formal staff met with the Chief Judge of the Herat provincial Court of Appeals to discuss continuing legal education initiatives for sitting judges. The project staff familiarized the Chief Judge with the topics of upcoming training programs and sought his advice in selecting instructors and preparing teaching methodologies and manuals. RLS-Formal provides continuing legal education for sitting judges in order to build the practical skills and knowledge of substantive legal topics to strengthen the application of the rule of law in Afghanistan.



Judge Zubair, Chief of the Herat Appellate Court discusses plans for continuing legal education for sitting judges with RLS-Formal Deputy Chief of Party and Regional Coordinator (Herat Province, December 9, 2012).

- In collaboration with the SC's Research & Training Department, RLS-Formal successfully conducted a training program, commencing on December 26th, for 34 sitting judges from the ACTs across Afghanistan. The program provided an opportunity for the participants to study the legal framework for fighting corruption, including banking and money-laundering laws, as well as judicial ethics and integrity. Thirty-three male judges and one female judge from Badakhshan, Bamyan, Ghor, Herat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Khost, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktia, and Panjshir provinces participated in the training in Kabul. RLS-Formal aims to improve the capacity of anti-corruption courts through practical training activities for judges and their staff, which will increase public confidence in the government's commitment to the rule of

law in Afghanistan.

- On December 30th, RLS-Formal advisors met with Judge Anisa Rasuoli, the Director of the AWJA, to develop a one-year work plan of activities and discussed training initiatives to build the capacity of the association as a whole. The Director offered her support for and agreed to work collaboratively with RLS-Formal highlighting the role of women judges in Afghanistan through the association. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to strengthen the organizational capacity of the AWJA to advocate on behalf of women judges and serve as an inspiration for young women considering legal careers.

Task 3: Practical Skills Training & Continuing Legal Education for Sitting Judges

- During the week of December 1st, RLS-Formal advisors and Mr. Mohammad Osman Zhobal, Director of the Research and Studies Department at SC, continued planning the legal education training program for the 80 new judges who will fill the SC taskheel or organizational chart in some of the most insecure districts across Afghanistan. The topics and instructors were selected for the month-long pre-service training which will be held in Kabul prior to the judges' deployment to their duty stations. Through written correspondence, RLS-Formal has requested a specific start date for this training from the SC and anticipates a response from the Court in the next few weeks.
- On December 17th, RLS-Formal commenced a continuing legal education program for sitting judges from Helmand, Kandahar, and Zabul provinces on topics such as family and inheritance law, civil and criminal procedure, judicial ethics, and women's rights. The two-week program took place in Kandahar and was comprised of 16 male judges, with a closing ceremony tentatively scheduled for December 26, 2012. RLS-Formal supports educating judges on practical skills and substantive legal topics, utilizing the continuing legal education materials developed by the project since 2010.



Head of the Civil Division of the Kandahar Appellate Court Judge Habibullah commences the continuing legal education training for sitting judges from Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces (Kandahar Province, December 17, 2012).

1.2 CAPACITY BUILDING OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS

Task 1: Train Court Staff to Provide Professional Court Administrative Services

- On December 9th and 10th, RLS-Formal staff met with the Chief Judge of the Herat provincial Court of Appeals and members of the Court's civil and criminal divisions to discuss upcoming activities to provide professional court administrative services. The project staff interviewed court administrators and analyzed the usage and accuracy of the court's statistical report system. RLS-Formal aims to improve the case statistics reporting system by simplifying the reporting forms and developing an automated statistics evaluation database. The improvements will enhance case flow data collection and assist the SC with allocating resources and performance-based management.
- During the week of December 21st, RLS-Formal concluded a computer literacy workshop for court administrators in Kandahar. The program provided an opportunity for 20 male staff to learn Microsoft Windows through hands-on, problem-solving activities. Also throughout December, RLS-Formal continued implementing two computer literacy workshops for court administrators and judges in Herat province. The three-month workshops will enable 11 male and three female court administrators and four female judges from the Herat appellate court to learn Microsoft Windows through hands-on, problem-solving activities. Knowledge of essential computer applications enables court administrators to efficiently prepare case documents and maintain court records and statistics, contributing to a professional court administrative service. This capacity-building initiative also aims to prepare court personnel to enter data in the statistics database that is under development at the SC with RLS-Formal assistance.



Court administrators and judges begin a computer literacy workshop (Kandahar Province, December 11, 2012).

- On December 22nd, RLS-Formal advisors met with Chief Judge Fazel Rahman of the Appellate Court in Balkh province to discuss capacity building initiatives for court personnel. The Chief Judge offered his support for the case statistics reporting system under development by RLS-Formal which analyzes case flow data to assist the SC in making resource allocation decisions. The participants also discussed the support provided by the project for the Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS) and the upcoming administrative *Stage* program, an induction training program for court administrators on effective court administrative procedures and processes.

Task 2: Develop Supreme Court Capacity to Manage Budget, Personnel, and Infrastructure

- On December 2nd, RLS-Formal completed the installation of a library database at the SC. Prior to the installation of the database all books were catalogued, labeled, and checked out manually. With the new database, all tasks will be computerized to significantly reduce inventory and tracking errors and assist the staff and patrons to efficiently and accurately locate library books and other research materials.
- On December 19th, RLS-Formal also graduated eight SC librarians from a training program on library management and design. The five male and three female librarians learned how to enter information, catalogue and track books using a library database. RLS-Formal supports the development of professionally managed and well-supplied libraries as a means for students and judicial personnel to more easily identify and access legal resources.
- On December 17th, RLS-Formal installed a human resources database and asset management database at the SC. The human resources database helps the Court to manage its personnel by tracking staff performance and training data, and integrating the data with the government's civil service database. The asset management database enhances the SC's ability to administer its property and oversee the construction and renovation of court buildings. RLS-Formal aims to develop the capacity of the Court to formulate its budget and to manage its personnel and material assets by providing technical and material support. The project also provided manuals to the SC to help staff to being to use the new databases. Comprehensive training on the use of the databases will be conducted in the coming weeks.
- In December, RLS-Formal advisors worked closely with the Budget Directorate of the SC on developing their annual budget. The advisors introduced counterpart staff to advanced financial planning concepts, including program-based and performance-based budgeting. One anticipated benefit is improving the court's ability to receive and management direct US Government assistance. RLS-formal assists the Court to improve its capacity to administer the court system through better budget development and management.

1.3 CAPACITY BUILDING OF LAW AND SHARIA FACULTIES***Task 1: Continue Implementation of Core Curriculum for Law and Sharia Faculties***

- No activities to report in this reporting period.

Task 2: Provide Practical Training for Law Students & Instructors

- On December 3rd, RLS-Formal advisors, along with Mohammad Farid Barnayar, Chancellor of Al Biruni University, Professor Bismullah Matin, Dean of Al Biruni Law Faculty, and Professor Mahmood Rashed, Dean of Al Biruni *Sharia* Faculty celebrated the opening of a USAID-funded language lab at Al Biruni University in Kapisa province. The lab contains new computers with state-of-the-art English-language software to aid the development of students' English language skills from beginning through advanced levels. With the establishment of this lab, students who typically learn English in a large group setting will be able to individualize their lessons to focus on vocabulary, grammar, listening, pronunciation, and reading comprehension at their own pace. The lab will also be utilized by professors from the university's Literature Department who will conduct classes there for Law and *Sharia* students. Students' ability to improve their English will result in their ability to access an

array of legal resource materials available in English and will expand their opportunities to participate in mock trials, moot court competitions, study tours, and scholarships abroad which require advanced-level English language proficiency.

- From December 4th to December 6th, RLS-Formal commenced a training program on legal research methodologies for 50 female students from the Law and *Shari'a* faculties of Nangarhar University. The three-day program familiarized the students with the practical skills of researching legal topics using online sources and strategies in order to facilitate the selection of thesis and dissertation topics, as well as aid in overall general legal research. RLS-Formal supports practical training initiatives for Law and *Shari'a* faculty students across the country in order to balance the academic focus of their education and to prepare them to enter the legal profession after graduation.
- On December 23rd, RLS-Formal advisors met with the deans of the Law and *Shari'a* faculties of Balkh University to discuss practical training initiatives for students and instructors. The meeting familiarized the deans and other faculty with the upcoming Symposium on Legal Education which aims to build consensus amongst educators in Afghanistan on curriculum reform, improving the balance of practical and theoretical skills trainings for students, and modernizing teaching methodologies. The advisors also met with legal clinic directors to develop annual work plans and with students participating in the Jessup Moot Court Competition to gain feedback on their progress.

Task 3: Support Hands-On Training for Law Students

- Between December 22nd and December 27th, 22 female students from the *Shari'a* faculty at Kabul University participated in a legal clinic on family law. The students researched and prepared formal petitions for cases, complementing their academic coursework on family law. RLS-Formal provides technical and financial support to legal clinic programs which help students to observe the formal justice system, develop their research and advocacy skills to better prepare them to enter the legal professional after graduation.

Task 4: Develop Advanced Legal English Training

- On December 8th, RLS-Formal and the *Sharia* Faculty of Kabul University inaugurated a language lab at the university. The lab contains new computers with language-learning software to promote the study of foreign languages, including English and Arabic, which enable students and professors to broaden their access to legal resources and to gain the communications skills to study abroad. English language skills also expand the opportunities of students to participate in moot courts, debates and other international competitions which require proficiency. The Vice-Dean of the *Sharia* Faculty of Kabul University led the inauguration of the language lab. Shortly thereafter on December 12th, 12 male and two female students from the *Shari'a* faculty began an English language course using the new language lab. An additional 70 male and 11 female students from both the Law and *Shari'a* faculties at Kabul University began a subsequent English language course on December 25th.



Shari'a Faculty Vice Dean Salim Salim and RLS-Formal Chief of Party inaugurate a language lab at Kabul University (Kabul Province, December 8, 2012).

- Throughout December, RLS-Formal supported an English language course for Law and *Sharia* students from Nangarhar University. The participants, comprised of 120 male students, learned advanced English reading, writing and communication skills using the university's language lab. RLS-Formal assists universities to implement advance legal English trainings in order to expand the opportunities of students to participate in moot courts, debates and other international competitions which require English language proficiency.

Task 5: Modernize Teaching Methodologies

- On December 10th, RLS-Formal graduated 25 professors from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of the Nangarhar University from a training on modern teaching methodologies (ToT). The three-day training conveyed how to teach and present using modern technology such as computers and use of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. 24 male professors and one female professor graduated from the training. RLS-Formal provides methodology training and modern classroom equipment to universities in order to create a more robust cadre of future lawyers and judges with the skills to think critically.



Shari'a Faculty Dean Sayed Ahmad Fatimi presents a ToT certificate of graduation to a professor at Nangarhar University (Nangarhar Province, December 10, 2012).

1.4 PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH AND AWARENESS THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Task 1: Provide Equipment and Technical Assistance to Develop Public Legal Outreach Capacity

- On December 26th, RLS-Formal concluded a training program on the use of studio equipment for media and outreach staff from the Supreme Court. The 10 male staff members acquired practical skills and experience with the use of video cameras, lighting setup, and video and audio editing. RLS-Formal works with the SC to transfer knowledge on the production of radio and television programs in order to leave a legacy of professionals with the expertise and experience to educate the public of their legal rights.



Supreme Court public legal outreach staff receives practical training on studio equipment (Kabul Province, December 26, 2012).

- On December 30th, RLS-Formal completed a training module for media and outreach staff from the SC on how to conduct professional photography. The ten male and one female staff members acquired practical skills with lighting, camera settings and picture composition in order to capture impactful images. RLS-Formal works with the SC to transfer knowledge on the production of print publications in order to leave a legacy of professionals with the expertise and experience to educate the public of their legal rights.

Task 2: Develop Capacity Building of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice to Conduct Effective Print Campaigns

- In December, RLS-Formal continued to assist the Legal Awareness Department of the MOJ with the development of print publications for public legal outreach campaigns. The project advisors provided technical assistance on the design of effective brochures, posters and booklets promoting the adherence to labor law and contract law, and the advantages of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. RLS-formal assists the SC and MOJ by transferring key skills, processes and best practices in effective campaign design and implementation in order to increase public awareness and confidence in the justice sector.



The Ministry of Justice published booklets to raise public awareness of labor law, contracts law and alternative dispute resolution.

Task 3: Develop Capacity of Supreme Court and Ministry of Justice to Produce Radio and Television Programs

- On December 10th, RLS-Formal launched a public awareness campaign commemorating International Human Rights Day in partnership with the MOJ and UNDP. The campaign featured four different public service announcements broadcast on television. The announcements sought to increase awareness of the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women which protects women against domestic violence, forced marriage and child marriage. They also emphasized the property and inheritance rights of women, the rights of girls to receive equal education and treatment, and the MOJ's telephone hotline for citizens to report violations of their rights. Tolo TV, one of the most popular television stations in the country, aired the announcements nightly in primetime from December 10-18, 2012 from 8:30-9:00AM and 6:30-9:30PM.

1.5 GENDER EQUALITY AND AWARENESS

- On December 25th, RLS-Formal conducted a training module on gender justice for sitting judges from Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. The 16 male judges learned how to enforce and uphold the Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which protects women against domestic violence, forced marriage and child marriage, and guarantees property and inheritance rights of women. The training module was part of a two-week continuing legal education program to educate judges on practical skills and substantive legal topics. RLS-Formal mainstreams gender justice programs in all of its judicial training programs to foster a justice sector willing and capable of applying Afghanistan's constitutional guarantee of gender equality.

RLS-FORMAL INDICATOR TARGETS TABLE: ANNEX TO DECEMBER 2012 MONTHLY REPORT

Performance Indicators	Definition	Reporting Frequency	Achievements			
			First Quarter Targets (Oct, Nov, Dec 2012)	First Quarter Progress	Problems / Remedial Actions	Notes
1. Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively	Using a survey instrument, the number of court users who agree that a court performed effectively divided by the total number of respondents	Semi-Annual	-	Project developing a court user satisfaction survey to be rolled out in February 2013.	N/A	Project will report on Indicator in Second Quarter.
2. Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law (Mission Indicator 1.1b)	The number of people who listen to a radio or TV broadcast, or receive a print or other publication supported by RLS-Formal divided by an estimation of the current population of Afghanistan	Semi-Annual	-	Project is gathering broadcast data from radio and television channels	N/A	Project will report on Indicator in Second Quarter.
3. Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted	Number of respondents who agree (strongly or somewhat) with the statement "state courts are fair and trusted" divided by the total number of respondents	Annual	68% (2012 TAF Survey Result)	68% (2012 TAF Survey Result)	N/A	Project will report on Indicator in Fourth Quarter.
4. Percentage of judges that complete the basic or "Stage" training (Mission Indicator 1.11.b)	Number of judges that complete the judicial Stage program divided by the total number of judges	Annual	-	Program support for the Stage is underway	N/A	Project will report on Indicator in Fourth Quarter.
5. Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques	"Stage" trainers are defined as all individuals who regularly instruct at the stage. Employing modern teaching techniques is defined as the use of student centered learning including interactive teaching methodologies such as PowerPoint, visual aids, participatory classroom discussions, role plays, etc.	Quarterly	0	Training of Trainers programs are currently being developed and assessments are to be conducted thereafter	N/A	Project will report on Indicator in Second Quarter.

6. Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights	Number of judges that receive training focused specifically on women's legal rights divided by the total number of judges	Quarterly	-	Gender programs conducted in Kandahar with 17 judges trained in women's legal rights.	N/A	Project will report on Indicator in Second Quarter.
7. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance (F Indicator 2.1.2-7)	Judicial personnel, including judges, court administrators and staff, prosecutors, advocates, inspectors, and public outreach staff, participating in capacity building training events short-term or long-term, and in-country or abroad	Quarterly	60	Target exceeded. CLE programs conducted this quarter: 95 judges (78 in Nov and 17 in Dec)	N/A	-
8. Number of courts benefitting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms	Reforms are those in the area of budget, personnel, statistical, asset management, and other systems or databases adopted by the Supreme Court	Quarterly	22	3 databases installed at SC in December (HR, asset management and library)	Databases were installed later than anticipated due to lack of cooperation from SC during Fall of 2012	Installation of databases will benefit 34 provincial courts when fully functional
9. Percentage of students participating in practical legal course work that express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector	Number of students who express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector divided by the total number of students participating in practical legal course work	Semi-Annual	-	Project developing a student satisfaction survey to be rolled out in February 2013	N/A	Project will report on Indicator in Second Quarter.
10. Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or internships (Mission Indicator 1.1.2b)	Number of students actively learning through practical skills activities at cooperating law and <i>Shari'a</i> faculties	Quarterly	605	Target exceeded. 635 students (391 male students; 244 female students enrolled in legal research, moot courts, and clinic work)	N/A	-
11. Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance (Mission Indicator 1.1.2e)	The development of course textbooks or reference materials indicates a new legal course or curricula. New legal courses include those on English language skills, computer use, libraries, etc.	Quarterly	3	Target exceeded. Developed four new legal courses/curricula	N/A	-
12. Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries	Qualitative. Facilitators solicit the views and ideas of targeted beneficiaries (women, youth, etc.) on the impact of newly developed outreach materials	Semi-Annual	-	The project is developing listening group guidelines and discussion guides on legal topics	N/A	Project will report on Indicator in Second Quarter.

13. Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns	Number of publications, programs, and other materials produced with the support of RLS-Formal and disseminated by RLS-Formal and its counterparts through legal outreach campaigns	Quarterly	1 radio program/PSA 1 TV program/PSA 6000 print publications	4 TV spots aired and, 1,000 Supreme Court Special Bulletin and - 290 law CDs distributed	Counterparts are slow to approve final materials. The project will build their management capacity to efficiently implement campaigns.	-
14. Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG-supported training/programming (USAID Gender strategy Indicator #3)	Women trainees who report in a post-training questionnaire that their professional skills or knowledge improved due to an RLS-Formal supported training	Semi-Annual	TBD	The project is developing a post-training questionnaire	N/A	Project will report on Indicator in Second Quarter.



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